

# The LRG AWRM Process

An extensive public-involvement process has been implemented to accompany the introduction of the Draft Lower Rio Grande District Specific Rules and Regulations. This process is intended to encourage public comment on the draft rules and regulations before their ultimate promulgation. Opportunities for public involvement go well beyond what is legally required of the State Engineer. **The public will have ample opportunity to review and comment** on the public review draft. Comments received will be considered in the proposed final draft for promulgation.

The five-step process is described below:

## Step I (2004-2006)

- December 2004, established the LRG Water Master District
- December 2004, LRG Metering Order issued (amended December 2005)
- March 2005, LRG Water Master hired
- March 2006, 1<sup>st</sup> LRG Water Master District groundwater well inspection by the OSE

## STEP II (Summer-Fall 2006)

- June 2006, First Public Draft of the Proposed Rules & Regulations Providing for Active Water Resources Administration of the Waters of the LRG Water Master District presented to the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO)
- August 2006, LRGWUO submits its review and comments of the rules & regulations to the State Engineer
- September 2006, the State Engineer submits his responses to the LRGWUO review and comments

## STEP III (Fall 2006)

- November 2006, Second Public Draft of the Proposed Rules & Regulations Providing for Active Water Resources Administration of the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande Water Master District
- November 2006, Public meetings scheduled to introduce the rules & regulations and solicit public question and comment. The public meetings are scheduled to take place as follows:

Las Cruces	Truth or Consequences
6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
November 14, 2006	November 15, 2006
Gerald Thomas Hall Room 194	Truth or Consequences Civic Center
New Mexico State University Campus	400 W. Fourth Avenue



## STEP IV (Winter-Spring 2007)

The official and legally required public process for the promulgation of the final proposed rules & regulations will be initiated:

- The rules & regulations are placed on file for public review for a period of one month
- Next, the rules & regulations or a summary of them must be published in no fewer than five newspapers of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks
- A public hearing to present the rules & regulations must be held not more than 30 days nor fewer than 20 days after the last date of publication



## STEP V (Summer 2007)

- Promulgation and adoption of the rules & regulations, making them effective
- The State Engineer and his staff will begin implementing the final rules & regulations throughout the basin

## Ongoing: Alternative Administration Discussions

In times of inadequate water supply (i.e., drought), Alternative Administration could provide a less painful alternative to Priority Administration, and one that is much more responsive to local water users' needs. The State Engineer is working with the LRGWUO, which has taken the lead in developing a preferred Alternative Administration plan. The State Engineer considers [EBID's April 2006 proposal](#) to assure equitable allocation of Rio Grande Project water to Texas and Mexico to be a cornerstone of any such Alternative Administration plan.

## Additional Information & Contact Information

The draft rules & regulations may be picked up at the The Las Cruces State Engineer Office:

1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
(505) 524-6161

Or they may be viewed or downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Comments on the draft rules & regulations are encouraged and can be mailed to:

LRG Draft Regulations  
Office of the State Engineer  
Attn: Cynthia Stokes  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

[lrg.comments@state.nm.us](mailto:lrg.comments@state.nm.us)

FAX  
505-827-6188